

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) introducing a first conductor and a second conductor into the sample containing at least one biological element;

(b) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

(c) adjusting the voltage to reduce an ability of the at least one biological element in the sample to be amplified or detected in a PCR reaction process.

2. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

15 (a) removably attaching the at least one biological element in the sample to a binding member;

(b) introducing a first conductor and a second conductor into the sample;

(c) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

(d) adjusting the voltage such that the biological element in the sample is removed from the binding member.

3. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

25 (a) introducing a first conductor and a second conductor into the sample;

(b) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

30 (c) adjusting the voltage to unzip the at least one biological element in the sample.

4. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) locating a first conductor and a second conductor adjacent the sample;

(b) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

(c) adjusting the voltage to reduce an ability of the at least one biological element in the sample to be amplified or detected in a PCR reaction process.

5. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) removably attaching the at least one biological element in the sample to a binding member;

(b) locating a first conductor and a second conductor adjacent the sample;

(c) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

(d) adjusting the voltage such that the biological element in the sample is removed from the binding member.

6. A method of processing a sample containing at least one biological element, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) locating a first conductor and a second conductor adjacent the sample;

(b) applying a voltage between the first conductor and the second conductor; and

(d) adjusting the voltage to unzip the at least one biological element in the sample.